

support minority-owned businesses in Colorado. The new Denver Minority Business Center will further promote the growth of minority-owned businesses in Colorado by ensuring they have the technical skills to access contracting and financing opportunities they need to succeed.

Despite the tremendous potential and growth among minority firms, they still face the challenges that all businesses are facing in a capital constrained market. Also troubling is that research has shown that these challenges can be heightened for minority-owned firms. For instance, minority-owned firms are less likely to receive loans than nonminority-owned firms, making it more difficult for minority-owned firms to secure the capital they need to establish themselves. This is why the Denver Minority Business Center will be a valuable asset to our entire State.

To help business owners start or grow their business, I introduced a credit union lending bill that would responsibly lift the cap that limits the amount of money credit unions can lend to small businesses. By doing so, new loans can help open the doors to new businesses and thereby create more than 100,000 new jobs across the Nation in the first year. This is another example of how we can support Hispanic and non-Hispanic businesses alike to continue to prosper. I understand that there remains much to be accomplished and I am glad that Colorado's Hispanic-owned businesses and workers are willing and ready to be part of the solution.

I am proud to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. As we celebrate the many contributions of Colorado's Hispanic community to our State, I hope that we can draw attention to the need to cooperate so that we can find shared solutions to create a stronger environment for all businesses to thrive.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

KOTA RADIO OF SOUTH DAKOTA

• Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, today I recognize a broadcasting pioneer in my home state of South Dakota. KOTA Radio is celebrating its 75th anniversary this November and I would like to commend the great work of the Duhamel family in building KOTA into a well-respected and recognized broadcasting entity in western South Dakota and parts of Wyoming, Nebraska, and Montana.

On November 26, 1936, Black Hills Broadcasting began radio operations as KOBH—Kall of the Black Hills—and began broadcasting from the penthouse of the Alex Johnson Hotel. The station became known as KOTA in 1945. Helen Duhamel purchased a minority interest in Black Hills Broadcasting in 1943, expanded her holdings in 1948, and by 1954 she had purchased all remaining common stock and Duhamel Enterprises

was formed. She helped pave the way for women in South Dakota business and was one of the first women in the Nation to have such an integral role in the broadcasting business.

Over the years, many members of the Duhamel family were intimately involved in the day-to-day operations of KOTA and Duhamel Enterprises. Helen continued to serve as president and general manager of the station until 1976, when her son William F. Duhamel took over both positions. Bill Duhamel has served amiably and with the highest degree of professionalism and dedication for the past 35 years and shows no signs of slowing down. Bill grew up at his mother's side around the station learning the broadcasting and journalism professions, and he passed on that passion to his daughter Helene, who serves as a television anchor at the station, and other family members over the years who have been integrally involved in the family businesses.

As part of their celebration this year, Duhamel Enterprises has broadcast a daily reflection, going back to the same day in 1936 and providing listeners with recollections of local, state and national news items from that year. They are transferred in time and are reminded of local businesses, some that have long since shuttered while others remain vibrant and strong to this day. They are reminded of the cost of a gallon of milk or loaf of bread. The stories have rekindled great memories for listeners of all ages.

KOTA and Duhamel Broadcasting has won numerous awards for their broadcasting and journalistic excellence over the years. The Duhamel family and their family of employees have been very involved as well in community activities, most notably the KOTA Care and Share Food Drive, which has been organizing massive food and monetary donation drives to help feed the area's hungry for the past 27 years.

Over the years, Duhamel Enterprises has expanded broadcasting coverage to include the eastern half of Wyoming and the northwestern portion of Nebraska. The radio and broadcasting professionals at KOTA have been well-recognized and awarded for their excellence and many of the KOTA broadcasters were journalistic pioneers who helped foster and produce styles of news gathering and presentation styles envied by many young broadcasters.

I congratulate KOTA Radio and Duhamel Enterprises as well as Bill Duhamel, members of the Duhamel family and their broadcasting family on the occasion of the station's 75th anniversary, as well as their numerous contributions to the Rapid City and Black Hills communities through journalistic and broadcasting excellence as well as their community presence.●

RAPID CITY HARNEY LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL

• Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize

and congratulate the Rapid City Harney All-Star Little League for their impressive teamwork and sportsmanship.

In the past 4 years, 2 other South Dakotan teams have earned their way into the Little League World Series. Like the teams that have gone before them, I believe the Harney All-Stars stand as strong examples of the very best this sport has to offer. These dedicated young athletes worked together as a team and exhibited the kind of sportsmanship that can serve as a model for every American, including professional athletes playing in the major leagues, to emulate. There is no doubt in my mind these young athletes played to the best of their abilities and truly had both the hearts and their heads in the game.

I offer my sincere appreciation to all of this year's exceptional team members: Tristan Deming, Justin Kraemer, Riley McSherry, Seth Brewer, Zach Solano, Cameron Fees, Madden Pikula, Erik Petry, Timmy Paris, Kyle Maguire, Hayden McGriff and Brett Beyer. I would also like to acknowledge Coach Kasey McGriff, who helped lead the Harney team to the Little League World Series.

These young people represented Rapid City and the State of South Dakota in an extraordinary fashion. While the final outcome of the Little League World Series was not what these young athletes had hoped for, their hard work and sportsmanship well represent the very best of South Dakota's values.●

TRIBUTE TO STAFF SERGEANT RAVEN S. TAYLOR

• Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I speak today in honor of one of our Nation's finest, a member of the U.S. Air Force. I am pleased to announce that Raven S. Taylor was selected as one of 12 airmen who earned the award of Outstanding Airman of the Year, and I am proud to note that Raven earned this distinction while serving in the rank of senior airman at Eielson Air Force Base, AK. She has since been promoted to staff sergeant. This is an auspicious occasion and no small feat considering the 12 airmen were selected from an eligible pool of over 288,000 for their superior leadership, job performance, and personal achievement.

Raven is a native of Waycross, GA. She graduated with honors from Prince County High School and enlisted in the Air Force in 2007. After basic training and technical school as a aerospace medical technician, Alaska welcomed her to Eielson as her first duty assignment. Like many others who come to our State, Raven felt right at home, thriving in her job at the hospital and making meaningful contributions to the community. She oversaw some 650 preventive health assessments and supervised the infection control program, which achieved a flawless record of zero infections reported over 18,000 patient visits. Raven assisted with 20